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The official magazine of the
South Melbourne Hellas Soccer Club Ltd.

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ROUNDS 11 & 12 - 1995/96 Ericsson Cup
SOUTH MELBOURNE v NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
Wednesday 6th December 1995
SOUTH MELBOURNE v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
Sunday 10th December 1995
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EDITORIAL

The changing face of our game

THERE HAVE BEEN so many changes made to our game in Australia that you could fill a book with them – and quite a large one at that.

But I don't think that we have quite got the mix right yet and expect that there will be a few more changes before we kick into the year 2000 and a new millennium.

A couple of weeks ago I spoke to a prominent New Zealand journalist at the Australia v New Zealand match.

He was fairly convinced that Auckland will get the green light to enter the Ericsson Cup which is very exciting.

Despite the rumblings from Oceania it seems that FIFA statutes do permit the entry of overseas clubs – as long as both national federations and FIFA are agreeable.

Another change coming up is likely to be more imminent and that is the entry of Perth in next season's Ericsson Cup.

If Perth come in alone it would leave us with an odd number of clubs – and I don't think that Soccer Australia will allow that to happen.

Neither do I think that there is any real danger of any of the existing twelve being relegated.

Who else comes in to make the 14, well that is anyone's guess at this stage.

I'm sure that David Hill has his thoughts but he certainly isn't making them public.

Parramatta Eagles, Heidelberg and the Zebras are all keen to get

their status back and maybe one of them will do just that.

But maybe the SA chief has another little surprise up his sleeve.

Auckland, if that goes according to plan, are likely to come in the following season and I would not see any likelihood of a 16 team league.

More probably one club will drop out leaving the Cup at 14 teams which would give 39 round matches per season, plus the play offs, cup matches and international club matches which will be a part of the scene by that time.

Remember that we have jumped two seasons down the track and are now talking about the 1997/98 season by which time Australia will also be battling it out for the right to go to the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

It really is going to be an exciting few years for Australian football and a period which could see our game firmly on the sporting map.

That is the sort of sea change that we all envisaged when everyone was shouting about seminars, summits and new brooms.

I am sure that all of this is being talked about in the corridors of power – in fact I know that it is, and I am also sure that this is the direction that those in the corridors of power see our game going in.

The trouble is that they haven't told the people who come through the turnstiles yet; and who wants to be out at sea without anyone rowing the boat.

Time for baby Blues to gel



IT IS something which South Melbourne fans have experienced over the last two seasons but it is clearly something which they don't like.

Last season the team had a horror start and this season has been no exception.

At the end of the day all of the sound logic and explanations go out of the window simply because the club's following expects – and demands – not only good football, but results.

This season coach Frank Arok gambled heavily by paying off his big names and he got the kind of media backlash which he expected.

"How many of those players have won anything for the club in the past?" he rightly asked.

"Did that team ever win a championship?"

It was a point well made and Arok then set about building up his '95 version of the Baby Blues around a hard core of experience and talent.

That core was to have included Anastasiadis, Muscat, Kuzmanovic, Petersen, Boutsianis, Trimboli and Kelic.

Toss in the signing of Kiwi international Vaughan Coveney and it wasn't a bad start.

Then Arok blended in the club's own junior prodigies, some of whom had been around for quite a few seasons, and a bit of talent from the Victorian Premier League.

Plus, of course, the brilliant Daniel Alsopp from the Victorian Institute of Sport.

The trouble was that Muscat was transferred to Sheffield United and Boutsianis has gone off to Europe looking for a full time career.

In the meantime the Good Ship South Melbourne is clearly in



trouble.

"Changing the line-up virtually every week and so many players registered at the last second causes problems," says Arok.

"But I have to remind everyone that we didn't intend to start this season without Boutsianis and Muscat.

"I expected them to be part of my team."

Even in hindsight Arok believes that the players he cut from the squad left the club at the right time.

"We are still trying to find the best starting eleven out of our squad," he says and has just added Alan Davidson to that.

But even the return of Davo wasn't enough to prevent successive losses to West Adelaide and Brisbane Strikers.

Now Frank Arok has something which he has waited a long, long time to get – two successive home games at Bob Jane Stadium.

The matches against Newcastle

Breakers and Melbourne Knights are crucial.

Six points will lift them into Top Six contention, even four will haul them out of the dreaded danger zone.

Less will be a problem because in this super-tight season the need to win home games is imperative.

But Frank Arok has been around long enough to know that he has enough talent at his disposal to do what the club's supporters demand; he just needs the time for the players to gel.

Football is a game where time is a precious commodity – but it is also a game in which bad results are quickly forgotten in the euphoria of triumph.

The Blue & White Army are ready to cheer on the start of the 'season proper' – starting with this double-take set of two home fixtures.

Bruce Campbell & John White



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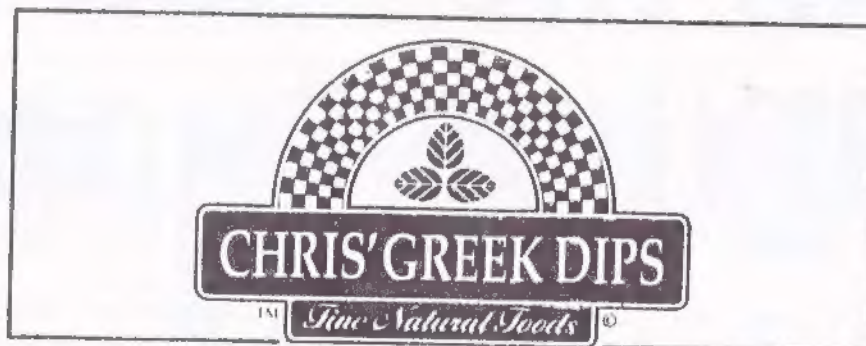
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Tansell Baser: one of the many bright youngsters who would have a big future in a professional set-up

On the road to full time football

FULL TIME football, the impossible dream ... is it realistically achievable? Especially in a country where football ranks behind Aussie Rules and Rugby League - depending on where you live.

Most media commentators have come out strongly on the side of a push for a full time league with the general opinion being that it is the only way to compete against the big guns of Europe in the attempt to keep our

best young players at home.

But realistically, what chance does soccer have if Rugby League and even Aussie Rules players aren't all full time?

In the other codes the top players are earning over \$400,000 each from playing alone, not counting personal endorsements and appearances.

Even the more modest Aussie Rules player can pull in anything from \$40,000 to \$80,000.

But that is the sort of

figure that only the top home based soccer players earn.

So how can the game even think of turning professional?

Currently the typical working budget of an average Ericsson Cup side is \$800,000 per season.

That figure only takes in normal running costs like player wages, back room staff, ASF fees, coaches and administration costs.

It doesn't leave any room for transfer fees or for signing on fees yet if

revenue was to be raised from the gate alone then an average paying crowd of 5,000 would be required at home games.

And that is just to keep the game at its present level.

The importance of sponsorship is obvious to the success of any club and without major company support from firms like Bob Jane T-Marts and Southern Motors then clubs like South Melbourne would not be able to operate at the high level that they do.

So is the full time game just a dream?

Maybe the recent *Futbol Mundial* report on club merchandising gives an insight to another direction which few clubs in Australia have explored thoroughly yet.

Because clubs in Britain like Swansea, Raith Rovers, Cardiff, Crewe and Lincoln can survive with gates which would very definitely not be the envy of Australian clubs.

Even English Premier League side Wimbledon struggle at the gate office yet they remain a viable, if unattractive, side in one of the best competitions in the world.

The same story goes right throughout Europe where, with the exception of the big glamour clubs, the leagues of Belgium, France, Holland, Ireland and Sweden survive on average gates between three and five thousand.

The crowd at the South Melbourne v West Adelaide game would

have been a rare treat for most clubs in Europe yet they are nearly all on a full time professional basis.

Clearly the gate takings are far less important than merchandising and club sponsorship and in fact only a very hopeful board would plan its soccer expenditure on

figures guessed at the turnstiles before the start of a season.

Maybe Soccer Australia could show the way by commissioning a special report on the finances of an overseas club, maybe a lower division side from Lancashire or Yorkshire in England, counties

where soccer also has to struggle as the number two sport in many towns – yet an area which still produces the giants like Liverpool and Leeds.

The dream isn't unrealistic nor even dead – but it does need a lot of study and research before it can become reality.

The KING RETURNS

In an article in *Soccer Australia* last season I referred to Alan Davidson as the King of Malaysia – and it was great news for all South fans to see the King make his return to a Blues shirt in the Bob Jane Stadium opener against West Adelaide.

There is little doubt that Davidson is one of the stars in Australian football – whether he is playing abroad or not and it is also no coincidence that his return last season on loan from Pahang sparked a major revival in our fortunes. Long Live The King. – BC



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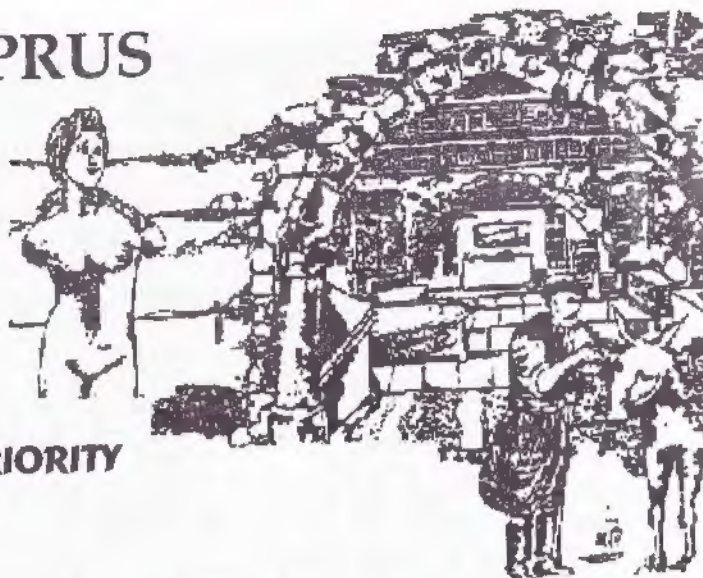
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BANK OF CYPRUS : A HUNDRED YEARS AHEAD

Paul Trimboli

SUPERSTAR



It hasn't come as any great surprise to South Melbourne fans – because they've known it for years, but Paul Trimboli is now being hailed as a SUPERSTAR.

A brilliant game for the Socceroos against New Zealand is just part of another fantastic season that the talented ball player is having.

And now he is being hailed as an integral part of Australia's next World Cup build up – even eclipsing some of the big name players overseas.



TOOHEYS
BLUE LABEL
BOTTLED

TOOHEYS BLUE

TOOHEYS
BLUE LABEL
BOTTLED

ERICSSON CUP THE TOP MARKSMEN

9	Damien MORI (Adelaide City)
5	Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
5	Tony PERINICH (Wollongong Wolves)
5	Kris TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic)
5	Paul WADE (Canberra Cosmos)
4	Francis AWARITEFE (Marconi-Fairfield)
4	Pablo CARDOZO (West Adelaide)
4	Andy HARPER (Marconi-Fairfield)
4	Warren SPINK (Morwell Falcons)
4	Kimon TALIADOROS (UTS Olympic)
4	Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)
3	Rod BROWN (Brisbane Strikers)
3	Sean CRANNEY (Brisbane Strikers)
3	Bradley HASSELL (Adelaide City)
3	Andrew MARTH (Melbourne Knights)
3	Joe MULLEN (Adelaide City)
3	Joe SPITERI (Melbourne Knights)
3	Norman TOME (UTS Olympic)
3	Clayton ZANE (Newcastle Breakers)
3	David ZDRILIC (Sydney United)
2	Ross ALOISI (West Adelaide)
2	Lachlan ARMSTRONG (Canberra Cosmos)
2	Elias AUGERINOS (UTS Olympic)
2	Shaun BABIC (Sydney United)
2	Mark BATTISTIN (Brisbane Strikers)
2	Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)
2	Brian BOTHWELL (Morwell Falcons)
2	Damian BROWN (Newcastle Breakers)
2	Bill DAMIANOS (South Melbourne)
2	David LOWE (Newcastle Breakers)
2	Brad MALONEY (Marconi-Fairfield)
2	Ante MILICIC (Sydney United)
2	Michael MUSITANO (Canberra Cosmos)
2	Lupcho NAUMOVSKI (Wollongong City)
2	Marko PERINOVIC (Canberra Cosmos)
2	Michael REDA (Morwell Falcons)

1995/96 SOUTH MELBOURNE STATS

Best Crowd:

11,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Best Home Crowd:

11,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Total Home Crowds:

17,976 (3 games)

Average Home Crowd:

5,992

95/96 Ericsson Cup Top Crowd:

11,956 South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9

ERICSSON CUP PLAYER APPEARANCES

03	Alsopp
08	Anastasiadis
10	Anthopoulos
06	Baser
01	Blatsis
08	Coveny
01	Curcija
09	Damianos
02	Davidson
02	Duric
09	Kelic
09	Kuzmanovic
08	Lewis
02	Lilikakis
07	Mangos
07	Nikolic
07	Panopoulos
03	Papadopoulos
09	Petersen
09	Sherifovski
10	Trimboli
04	Valkanis



GOAL SCORERS:

02	Steve PANOPOULOS
02	Paul TRIMBOLI
01	Daniel ALSOPP
01	Vaughan COVENY
01	Bill DAMIANOS
01	Ivan KELIC
01	Steve MANGOS
01	Agim SHERIFOVSKI

the next Ericsson Cup Matches at Bob Jane Stadium

v
Melbourne Knights
Sunday, 10 December 1995
KICK OFF 7.00pm

v
Adelaide City
Saturday, 23 December 1995
KICK OFF 7.00pm

&figuresfacts&figuresfacts&

BIG MATCH RESULTS

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 7 deferred match

Wednesday 29 November

Adelaide City 7 (Mori 2, Tobin, Mullen 2, Mennillo, Hassell)

Brisbane Strikers 0

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

ROUND 10

Saturday 2 December

Morwell Falcons 0

Adelaide City 4 (Mullen, Mori 2, Hassell)

Venue: Falcons Park

Brisbane Strikers 3 (Wright, R Brown, Battistin)

South Melbourne 0

Venue: Suncorp Stadium

Marconi-Fairfield 1 (Renaud)

Sydney United 1 (Bilokapic)

Venue: Marconi Stadium

West Adelaide 3 (Cardozo 2, Aloisi 1)

UTS Olympic 1 (Tome)

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Newcastle Breakers 1 (D Brown)

Wollongong City 2 (Perenich 2)

Venue: Breakers Stadium

Melbourne Knights 1 (Spiteri)

Canberra Cosmos 3 (Wade, Perinovich, Musitano)

Venue: Croatian Sports Centre

*Full details not available
due to early print schedule*

Ericsson Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UTS Olympic	10	5	3	2	19	15	18
Marconi-Fairfield	10	5	3	2	13	9	18
Melbourne Knights	10	5	2	3	12	10	17
Adelaide City	10	5	1	4	21	10	16
West Adelaide	10	4	4	2	14	11	16
Sydney United	10	4	4	2	10	7	16
Morwell Falcons	10	5	1	4	15	13	16
Brisbane Strikers	10	5	0	5	15	16	15
Canberra Cosmos	10	2	4	4	14	17	10
Wollongong City	10	3	1	6	11	17	10
Newcastle Breakers	10	2	2	6	11	20	8
South Melbourne	10	2	1	7	10	20	7

National Youth League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	6	4	2	0	11	3	14
Melbourne Knights	5	2	3	0	17	9	9
Altona Magic	4	3	00	1	5	3	9
VIS	5	2	2	1	17	7	8
Melbourne Zebras	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
South Melbourne	6	2	2	2	10	8	8
Morwell Falcons	5	2	2	1	12	11	8
Springvale City	5	1	3	1	9	11	6
Green Gully	5	2	0	3	6	10	6
Heidelberg United	5	1	2	2	7	10	5
North Geelong	6	0	2	4	4	21	2
Port Melbourne	5	0	0	5	3	11	0

*Correct as at last weekend

ERICSSON CUP NOTICE

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game.

Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time.

The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.

OFFENDERS WILL BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED

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SOUTH MELBOURNE

THE BLUES SQUAD

- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Con Blatsis
- 3 Steve Mangos
- 4 Alek Kuzmanovic
- 5 Mike Valkanis
- 6 Con Anthopoulos
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveney
- 9 Paul Trimboli (C)
- 10 Ivan Kelic
- 11 Agim Sherifovski
- 12 Bill Damianos
- 13 Craig Lewis
- 14 Michael Petersen
- 15 Nick Papadopoulos
- 16 Tansell Baser
- 17 Sasa Nikolic
- 18 Michael Curcija
- 19 Daniel Alsopp
- 20 Michael Liikakis
- 21 Aleksander Duric
- 22 Alan Davidson
- 23 Michael Petkovic
- 24
- 25
- 26 George Tsianakas
- 27
- 28
- 29

BLUE SHIRTS, BLUE SHORTS, WHITE SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP

ANASTASIADIS

KUZMANOVIC

ANTHOPOULOS

DURIC

BASER

COVENEY

PETERSEN

PANOPOULOS

SHERIFOVSKI

TRIMBOLI

ALSOPP

COACH: Frank Arok

LAST SIX LEAGUE HOME GAMES

- v West Adelaide (26.11.95) LOST 2-3
- v Sydney United (5.11.95) LOST 0-2
- v Canberra Cosmos (22.10.95) DREW 2-2
- v Morwell Falcons (23.4.95) WON 5-1 Top Six
- v Melbourne Knights (9.4.95) DREW 1-1
- v Melbourne SC (02.4.95) WON 1-0

LAST SEASON:

The Breakers didn't compete in last year's NSL while against Melbourne Knights the Blues had a 1-0 home win.

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BREAKERS

YELLOW SHIRTS, SHORTS & SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP

CARTER

HICKMAN

SANDERSON

ROBERTS

MAIER

WILSON

LOWE

SHARPLEY

SPROD

ZANE

BENNETT

COACH: John Kosmina

NEWCASTLE SQUAD

Craig Carter	1
Adam Sanderson	2
Stephen Hickman	3
Ralph Maier	4
Andy Roberts	5
Gary Wilson	6
Craig Sharpley	7
David Lowe	8
Troy Halpin	9
Clayton Zane	10
Damian Brown	11
Glenn Moore	12
Harry James	13
Jason Bennett	14
Scott Thomas	15
Shane Pryce	16
Glenn Sprod	17
	18
	19
Adam Fittock	20
	21
	22
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	27
	28
	40

LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

v Canberra Cosmos (25.11.95) LOST 2-3
 v Morwell Falcons (11.11.95) LOST 0-1
 v Sydney United (29.10.95) WON 2-1
 v Brisbane Strikers (21.10.95) LOST 0-5
 v Marconi- Fairfield (14.10.95) LOST 0-2

CURRENT FORM: Newcastle have had a hard road since their return to the top flight and should find that road extended tonight against the Blues. This match should be a home banker - giving Frank Arok the revival that he needs for the new Bob Jane Stadium. Prediction: 3-0 South Melbourne.

SOUTHERN MOTORS & BOB JANE T-MARTS

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KNIGHTS

RED SHIRTS, WHITE SHORTS & BLUE SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP

JURIC

de AMICIS

BULJUBASIC

MARTH

CERVINSKI

LAPSANSKY

TIATTO

PONDELJAK

KOVACEVIC

SPITERI

J MARKOVSKI

COACH: Mikro Bazic

KNIGHTS SQUAD

Frank Juric	1
Vinko Buljbasic	2
Fausto de Amicis	3
David Cervinski	4
Zoran Markovski	5
Andrew Marth (c)	6
Mark Silic	7
Idriz Pelja	8
Joe Spiteri	9
Lubo Lapsansky	10
Ollie Pondeljak	11
Ice Kutlesovski	12
Damian Vojtek	13
Danny Tiatto	14
Kruni Razov	15
Ante Kovacevic	16
John Markovski	17
	18
Damian Grganovic	19
Vilson Knezevic	20
Dragi Nastevski	21
Damir Movric	22
Branko Bacak	23
Tom Pondeljak	24
	25
	26
	27
	28
	29

LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

v Adelaide City (26.11.95)	DREW 2-2
v Sydney United (12.11.95)	LOST 0-2
v Newcastle Breakers (3.11.95)	WON 2-1
v West Adelaide (22.10.95)	DREW 1-1
v UTS Olympic (15.10.95)	LOST 0-1
v Adelaide City (7.5.95)	WON 2-0

CURRENT FORM: Melbourne Knights away form isn't all that impressive but then realistically the Blues still have a lot of things to do at home also. With the signing of Alan Davidson and the imminent arrival of Joe Bacak things could change - and quickly. Prediction - a Dockerty Cup repeat.

EASIER



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B EING called a veteran at three ripe old age of thirty is maybe a bit off the mark but the tag has stuck well to Mike Petersen this season.

Maybe that has as much to do with the fact that he has been at the club since 1989 as anything, although the youth of the rest of the squad has a lot to do with it too.

But Micky P isn't the longest serving member of the club – that honour goes to Paul Trimboli whose youthful good looks make Micky look like the grandfather of the team.

Petersen was one of a handful of successful signings from Melbourne Zebras which included Paul Wade and Mehmet Durakovic, brought in after a glorious Bi-Centennial year which saw Petersen make ten Socceroo appearances.

He went on to make another twenty two before playing his last game in a World Cup qualifier against Tahiti and during that time spent much of it in partnership with Paul Wade, now at Canberra.

"Micky is one of those very competitive players," says Wade of his former team-mate.

It's part of his life

"I remember coming off the park at a lot of games at Middle Park and going for a drink with Micky afterwards.

"Sometimes other players would say that they couldn't believe that we were friends because of the way that we slagged each other on the park.

"But that's football – and that is one he is one of the best midfielders in the business, he is very competitive."

That is also one of the main reasons why coach Frank Arok chose to keep him in the centre of things while a lot of other players left the club. Petersen himself has freely acknowledged the need for change at South Melbourne and now he is facing up to maybe the biggest challenge of his career;



that of steering the Baby Blues through the stormy times which have this and that player, plus the coach, being 'sacked' nearly every day in the press.

It is a challenge which few doubt Petersen takes very seriously for other than a spell in Malaysia South Melbourne has been part and parcel of his life for nearly a decade.

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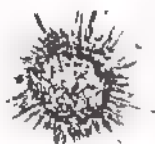


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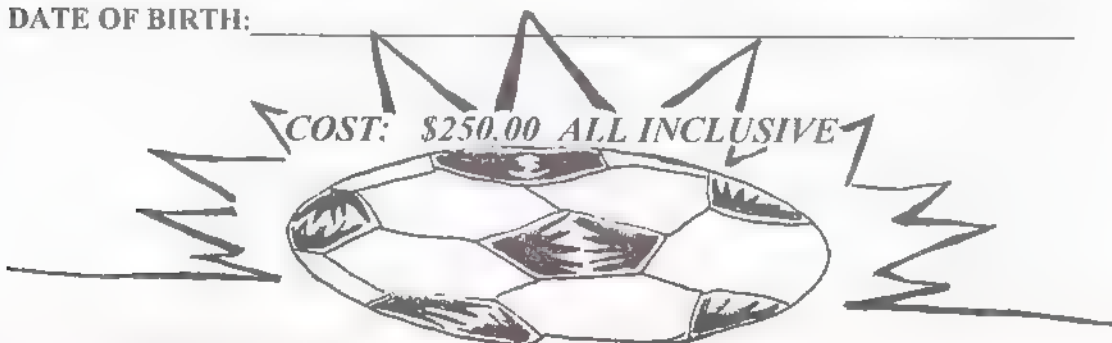
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A v Melbourne Knights (8.10.95) LOST 0-1
 A v Morwell Falcons (13.10.95) WON 1-0
 A v Adelaide City (18.10.95) WON 2-1
 H v Canberra Cosmos (22.10.95) DREW 2-2
 A v Wollongong City (27.10.95) LOST 0-2
 H v Sydney United (5.11.95) LOST 0-2
 A v UTS Olympic (12.11.95) LOST 2-4
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (18.11.95) LOST 1-3
 H v West Adelaide (26.11.95) LOST 2-3
 A v Brisbane Strikers (2.12.95) LOST 0-3
 H v Newcastle Breakers (6.12.95)

ERICSSON CUP - SECOND PHASE

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 H v UTS Olympic (4.02.96)
 H v Marconi-Fairfield (11.02.96)
 A v West Adelaide (18.02.96)
 H v Brisbane Strikers (25.02.96)
 A v Newcastle Breakers (1.03.96)

ERICSSON CUP - THIRD PHASE

A v Melbourne Knights (10.03.96)
 H v Morwell Falcons (13.03.96)
 A v Adelaide City (17.03.96)
 H v Canberra Cosmos (24.03.96)
 A v Wollongong City (27.03.96)
 H v Sydney United (31.03.96)
 H v UTS Olympic (6.04.96)
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (8.04.96)
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